

## VARIETY IN BREVITY

S. W. WILT

A man for the times is a man that will arouse thought as it concerns the driftwood floating on the theological stream.

"Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap," is not discussing methods of sowing, but the thing itself and its character.

Some people judge the quality of a musical instrument and the tone by the gilding on the instrument. They forget that the grave question is truth.

Many are living and working in the mazy fields of doubt because they will not have positive assurance.

Why is the "Brethren church" not having more additions? There can be but one answer: We have too many idle and unemployed ministers and lay members. What is to be done? Get them to cultivating, that will bring an increase. Remember the vineyard parable.

The party in the church that is always cross, sour and finding fault is a high-wayman and a murderer.

We are saved by obedience and disobedience. We are saved by love and hatred.

Fallible men lay their heads together and formulate a creed. The highest crime against it is to change it. Thus investigation and reformation become treason.

It is universally true, that if a church needs reforming, you cannot bring about that reformation and remain in it. The first thing that church does is to cast you out, and then set the hounds and bull-dogs of creedism after you.

The present indications in the political arena are, that the day of party bossism is about over. Lord hasten the day that in church as well as state that party bossism may only be known historically.

Backsliders are ill mannerly. They pack up their budget of carnality and start off on the journey back to the world and don't say good-bye to God, or farewell brother or sister.

*West Independence, O.*

## RECREATION

Its Proper Uses and Limitations to the Bible School Teacher

J. B. WAMPLER

As introductory you will kindly permit me to offer a few definitions as given by Webster. Recreation; the act of recreating, or the state of being recreated; refreshment of the strength and spirits after toil; amusement, diversion, sport.

The verb from which the noun "recreation" is derived, is "recreate," defined as follows: "To create anew, to refresh, from *re*, again, and *create*, to create; to give fresh life to; to reanimate; to revive; especially to revive the exhausted strength or languid spirits of; to refresh from weariness; to re-

lieve; to cheer; to divert; to amuse; to gratify.

Man created in the image of God, and after his likeness is constituted of spirit, soul and body, and therefore is possessed of two natures, the human or physical and the inner intellectual and spiritual.

1. Lawful recreation is essential to the development, health and happiness of our human or physical natures.

2. Lawful recreation is essential to the proper development, health and happiness of our inner intellectual and spiritual natures.

But inasmuch as there are such vast varieties of constitutions, capabilities and capacities in the human race physically and intellectually, I would not, and could not prescribe a personal limitation, to be universally applied.

I mean lawful recreation, that which is conformable to the revelation of God, and in consonance with the law of life, health and preservation, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Proper recreation for some individuals might be excessive to others, and therefore injurious and detrimental to their best interests, or perhaps ruinous physically and spiritually.

The limitation to the Bible-school teacher should therefore be lawful recreation. I mean, not excessive, immoral, impure, unchaste, ungodly, either mentally or physically.

The Apostle Paul in his first epistle to Timothy 4: 8 says, "Bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness (or piety) is profitable in all things, having the promise of the life which now is and that which is to come."

I attended a church service not long since where there was much bodily exercise, that, in my judgment, was not profitable, but very unprofitable (in the true worship of God). Also mental strain, noise and confusion, that was neither intelligent, orderly or in any way instructive to a well balanced mind. "Let all things be done decently and in order. God is a god of order and not confusion."

I would suggest that the limitation to the Bible school teacher should be the limitation to all Christians, whether ministers, Biblical instructors, teachers or lay members.

Inasmuch as there are some amusements, diversions, gratifications, sports and customs in the world in this nineteenth century, that are termed recreations and innocent amusements, that are looked upon and regarded by some of the best thinkers and most devout worshippers of God as being detrimental to our holy Christianity, and in consequence Christians should not participate in them. I will enumerate a few of the many so-called innocent amusements and recreations, such as parlor dances, euchre clubs, chess, chequer, foot ball and base ball games, circus shows, fairs and church festivals, lawn fetes, church dances, box suppers and picnics.

The term picnic very often brings to my remembrance an incident that occurred in our county some years ago. A citizen who

was engaged in the huckster business and kept a country store made a picnic (of course to make some money) Whiskey and beer were served pretty freely and as a result quarreling, fighting and a number of sore-heads ended the picnic. The good housewife related the incident to some parties in her own peculiar way as follows: "My George made a picnic but it turned out to be a hog-nic before it was over." I might add ball room eccentricities, general gambling recreations, boys' and girls' brigades, men and women's parades, and such like, with all organizations, societies and orders in which God is not glorified. The name of Christ is not revered, and the holy spirit discarded, and consequently the triune God dishonored.

In the closing up of my little address this Bible School convention will permit me to say that if any or all of these so called recreations named (with others that might be included) are not conformable to the divine law and revelation of God, or in consonance with the same, the Bible School teacher should not participate in them himself. And as a duty he owes to his God and to those he teaches he should instruct them as taught by the wise man. Prov. 4: 14, 15. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men, avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

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## Giving and Giving Up

Sunday School Times

To give is vastly more than to give up. It requires merely renunciation to give up, but it requires the same renunciation plus wisdom and the most careful forethought and planning to give. It requires but a single act to give up a fortune, and so be rid at once of the opportunity and of the responsibility of it. That could be done by casting it into the sea, but it requires a whole life of continuous consecration so to use a fortune as to give it in all its varied uses to the Master. One of the merchant princes of this country came to a man of much more limited means, but of a greater intimacy with the organized work of the kingdom of Christ on earth, and wanted that man to give away two million dollars for him. The rich man had a spirit of sacrifice capable of much giving up, but was conscious of his own inability to give wisely. So in ancient days there were many who had grace sufficient to give up their lives in ascetic sacrifices, but had not acquired the heavenly wisdom needed to give their lives in fruitful service. It has always been easier to put talents away wrapped in a napkin than to give those talents in such loyal, patient service that they produce for the Lord other talents beside them. We must learn to grow thru the unselfishness which is able and ready to give up, on into the wise ministry able and ready to give.

There is nothing greater, for which God made our tongues, next to recite his praises, than to minister comfort to a weary soul.  
—Jeremy Taylor.